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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1958

Health Area Office,
LAUNCESTON, Cornwall.

W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.



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BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1958

Health Area Office,
LAUNCESTON.
Cornwall.

WILLIAM PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

Memorandum

For the President

and

the Vice President

of the United States

Washington, D. C.

January 1952

BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

Members of the Public Health Committee - 1958

The Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston - T.HICKS
Councillor C.H.ROBINS (Chairman)
Alderman R.L.HICKS (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor W.F.HENDER
Councillor Mrs.K.A.KEAST
Councillor the Revd.P.P.W.GENDALL
Councillor Mrs.F.F.HICKS
Councillor E.A.HORE

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

Medical Officer of Health:

W.PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health: Launceston Rural District Council
Bude/Stratton Urban District Council
Stratton Rural District Council
Camelford Rural District Council

Assistant County Medical Officer, Area No. 6 - Cornwall County Council
School Medical Officer - Cornwall County Council

Public Health Inspector:

G.E.GIFFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,182
Population	4,670
No. of separate dwellings occupied	1,425
Rateable Value, 1958	£62,160
Product of ld. Rate	£247.19.5.919d

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
Legitimate	55	31	24	11.77
Illegitimate	-	-	-	

STILLBIRTHS - - - -

DEATHS (all causes)

68 28 40 14.56

Puerperal and post abortive NIL
Sepsis NIL
Other Puerperal causes NIL

INFANT MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year, per 1,000 live births)

- - - -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	2	7	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		N I L	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		N I L	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		N I L	

Health Area Office,
LAUNCESTON.

September, 1959.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dunheved, otherwise Launceston

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1958.

Deaths were fewer than in 1957 and, while there was an increase in the number of births, the adverse balance of deaths over births continued. There were no infant deaths and no stillbirths. Heart disease in various manifestations again headed the list of causes of death followed by vascular lesions of the central nervous system and cancer in that order. The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low.

In the Borough's sanitary circumstances, progress continued with slum clearance. A public inquiry was held at the end of the year with the proposed merger of water undertakings in the east of the county. Unforeseen difficulties occurred in the work of modernising the St. Leonard's Sewage Works. Meat inspection continued to call for many hours of overtime work on the part of the Council's Public Health Inspector.

I must express my thanks to Mr. G. E. Gifford, the Council's Public Health Inspector, for his valuable co-operation in all aspects of our work together and in the preparation of this report. The Council's other departments have continued their willing help. I am grateful to the General Medical Practitioners for their co-operation.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge, once again, the continued interest and encouragement of the members of the Council and, in particular, of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health

AREA (in acres) 2,182. This ancient Borough is the natural centre of the agricultural community in North Cornwall and adjoining parts of Devon. It has important markets and some light industry.

POPULATION - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1958 to be 4,670, an increase of ten over the previous year. The "natural" increase in the population is the excess of births over deaths. In 1958 there were 13 fewer births than deaths.

DEATHS - The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough for the year was 68 compared with 72 in 1957. The crude death rate, based on the mid-year population was 14.56 compared with 15.45 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years:

<u>Years</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1954	96	51	45	20.60
1955	85	30	55	18.20
1956	91	45	46	19.53
1957	72	35	37	15.45
1958	68	28	40	14.56

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "area comparability factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.59 for this Borough.

The Standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 8.59 which may be compared with that of 11.5 for England and Wales.

BIRTHS - The number of live births assigned to this Borough was 55 compared with 53 in 1957. The rate per thousand of the population was 11.77. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.06) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 12.47 for this Borough compares with 16.4 for England and Wales.

STILLBIRTHS - The number of stillbirths during 1958 was NIL.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS - There was no illegitimate birth assigned to the Borough during the year, compared with 1 in 1957.

MATERNAL MORTALITY - No case of death during pregnancy has been recorded.

INFANT MORTALITY - No deaths of infants in the first year of life occurred during the year.

NOTE: Vital Statistics. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to the other, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classifications of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	5	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	7	14
18. Coronary disease, angina	4	4	8
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	4	6
20. Other heart disease	1	3	4
21. Other circulatory disease	1	-	1
22. Influenza	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia	-	1	1
24. Bronchitis	1	2	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	10	16
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	1	-	1
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	28	40	68

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

General Medical Services

General medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

County Council Services

- I Health Department: The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946 and provides the following services in the district :-
- (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing. Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
 - (b) Health Visiting. The nurse midwives act also as health visitors and, with special training in the care of the mother and young child, are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. They act also as school nurses.
 - (c) Infant Welfare Centre. A fortnightly Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
 - (d) Dental Clinic. Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
 - (e) Vaccination and Immunisation. Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough are provided at the Infant Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor. Regular sessions are held for poliomyelitis vaccination.
 - (f) Home Help Service. Home helps are employed to provide domestic help for households in certain circumstances, a charge being made for this service according to the means of the person concerned.
 - (g) Ambulance Service. A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases utilising sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate, some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from Ambulance Control, Bodmin

- (h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care. A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors while health education is carried out by the County's medical and nursing staff.
- (j) Mental Health. The County Council has certain responsibilities in connection with the ascertainment of mental ill-health and mental deficiency, with the provision of statutory supervision, etc. for mental defectives living in the community, and with the provision of after-care following treatment for mental illness. The Duly Authorised Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston

II Education Department. As local education authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following:

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils.
Cleanliness Surveys of pupils.
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils.
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education.
Treatment Clinics, Health Clinic, Launceston :-
Dental Clinic by appointment each Tuesday and Friday.
Speech Therapy each Friday afternoon.
Child Guidance, by arrangement at Plymouth Child Guidance Clinic.

III Welfare Department. This service is concerned with the welfare of the aged, and with that of various categories of handicapped persons. It is concerned also with the provision of temporary accommodation in certain circumstances for persons in urgent need thereof. The Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

Hospital Services

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the area.

Launceston Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy and Tehidy Sanatoria. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon. An Orthopaedic Clinic is held weekly at the Health Clinic, Launceston and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Tavistock Hospital. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital.

An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Launceston Health Clinic. A specialist Ante-natal clinic is held at the Launceston Health Clinic each week.

Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Plymouth, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are sent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

Attention has been focused largely during the year on the proposed constitution of a joint Water Board for East Cornwall. The Minister of Housing and Local Government proposes that the following shall be constituent districts :-

Borough of Dunheved, otherwise Launceston;
Borough of Liskeard;
Borough of Saltash;
Urban District of Looe;
Urban District of Torpoint;
Rural District of Launceston;
Rural District of Liskeard;
Rural District of St.Germans.

It was felt that in view of the Borough Water Supply being of a high bacteriological and chemical standard and adequate in quantity for all foreseeable needs, the transfer of this undertaking, which is free of all loan charges, would be undesirable. It would also mean a considerable increase on present water charges. Consequently at a Public Hearing held by an Inspector appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on 10th December, 1958 at Liskeard the Council's official objection to the order was heard.

During this hearing, it was demonstrated that, contrary to popular belief, the 6 inch trunk main which was sixty-three years old had not deteriorated in spite of the acid nature of the water. Sections were produced at the hearing which had been specially cut from the trunk main and it was also shown that chemical analysis of the water after having traversed eleven miles of main gave no trace of having absorbed iron.

The outcome of the Public Hearing is still awaited.

In October of this year the Windmill Reservoir was drained and thoroughly cleaned. Since this was done, complaints received of the finding of low forms of aquatic life in drinking water have ceased.

Ten samples of drinking water were taken for bacteriological examination during the year and none were reported as containing Coliform Organisms of Faecal Type. Two samples were taken for chemical analysis and showed no evidence of pollution. Due to the heavy rainfall throughout the year no difficulty was experienced in maintaining a daily supply of between 180,000 and 216,000 gallons and for much of the time this has been provided for by the land springs alone.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

St. Leonard's Sewage Works - Work on this project was commenced in February, 1958. It soon became clear that unforeseen difficulties were arising, with acute problems requiring much investigation and specialist advice. Messrs. Lemon and Blizard, Consulting Engineers, were called in and advised the carrying out of limited works as an interim measure. Full investigations and sampling have been undertaken in the meanwhile to ensure that the works will deal satisfactorily with certain highly pollutive wastes which otherwise would have an adverse influence on the standard of the final effluent.

It appears likely that modifications to the original plan will be necessary and an early completion date is not anticipated.

Scarne Sewage Works - Due to the development of the Scarne Housing Estate with its ultimate size of seventy-one houses, it has become essential to enlarge and modernize this sewage works in order to cope with the resultant population.

It is proposed, therefore, to build a new hopper bottomed settlement tank, new sludge drying beds, pumping station, detritus chamber and humus tank. The existing settlement tanks will be retained and modified for storm water tanks and a storm water overflow will be provided. This work should be completed during 1959.

Sewers and Drains - All new sewers and drains were tested under pressure by means of water or smoke.

SWIMMING POOL

The swimming pool at Coronation Park is provided with an automatic chlorination dosing plant. The water is treated by a circulating filter and by dosage with alum and soda. The children's paddling pool is supplied by water treated by the swimming bath installation. Due to the poor weather experienced during the summer the bath was not heavily used. Four samples taken for bacteriological examination were reported as free from coliform organisms.

DISINFECTION

Current and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants is carried out in houses where certain infectious diseases are notified. One house was fully cleansed and disinfected during the year.

DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of premises is carried out when required. Four premises were treated for flea infestation but no cases of bed bug infestation have been reported.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Bi-weekly collections are made of household refuse and weekly collections made of refuse and salvage from trade premises. Thirty tons thirteen hundredweights of waste paper were sold during the year realising £209.10.9d.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Type of Property

	Local Authority	All Dwellings	Business Premises	Agricultural	TOTAL
Total No. of properties in the Borough	10	1425	621	35	2091
Inspection on complaint	4	12	9	-	25
Survey under the Act	4	77	196	12	289
Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	14	7	3	24
Total Inspections including re-inspections	142	116	263	15	536
Properties infested:					
Major Rat Infestations	1	-	-	-	1
Minor Rat Infestations	6	11	13	1	31
Major Mouse Infestations	-	-	-	-	-
Minor Mouse Infestations	1	6	4	-	11
Total No. of Infested Properties	8	17	17	1	43
No. of Block Control Schemes carried out	-	1	-	-	1

Test baiting of main sewers was carried out during the month of April when fifty-five manholes were treated. As in the previous year no bait was taken indicating the absence of rat colonies in the Council's sewers. The Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture have advised that in their opinion no further treatment need be given until April, 1960.

One heavy infestation by rats at St. Leonard's Sewage Works was dealt with in April and quickly eliminated. No notices were served under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

Poisons used: Warfarin 8 lbs. 3 oz.
Arsenic 3 oz.
Zinc Phosphide 2 lbs. 4 oz.

HOUSING

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 of 23rd November, 1955, details on housing matters in Reports of Medical Officers of Health need no longer be included since full details are submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Progress has, however, been made in Slum Clearance, and demolition of five houses at Angel Hill was carried out by the owner in May under the terms of a Clearance Order confirmed on 8th December, 1957.

An Official Representation was made to the Council on 20th December, 1957 concerning the condition of four houses in Tower Street and, in consequence, these were included in the Tower Street (Launceston) No. 1 Clearance Area 1958. These four houses, together with two partially cleared sites of neighbouring dwelling houses, were purchased by agreement. Demolition was carried out by a contractor and the area cleared is being used as a car park.

Two Closing Orders on parts of houses were made under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1937 and the occupiers have been rehoused.

One Improvement Grant under Section 20 of the Housing Act 1949 was made, and the work was completed during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(i) Classified Number of Food Premises in the Area

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No. Visits</u>		<u>Defects Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Butchers	13	39	1	1
Small Goods Factories	2	16	4	4
Bakehouses	3	9	-	-
Bakers' Shops	3	2	-	-
Cafes and Hotels	11	32	1	1
Dairies	5	31	-	-
Egg Packing Stations	2	2	-	-
Fish and Chip Shops	2	7	1	1
Greengrocers	6	11	-	-
Grocers	20	28	3	3
Poulterers	3	8	1	1
Sweet Factories	1	2	1	1
Slaughterhouses	4	555	1	1
School Meals Kitchens	4	3	-	-
Hospital Kitchens	2	2	-	-
Fresh Fish Shops	2	3	-	-

(ii) Classified No. of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 or under Local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1954

Premises registered for storage and sale of Ice Cream	20
Premises registered for sale of Fish and Chips	2
Premises registered for Sausage Manufacturing, etc.	7
Premises registered as Dairies	5

(iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

The following inspections of registered food premises were carried out :-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Fish and Chip Shops	7
Sausage Making Establishments, etc.	16
Ice Cream Premises	36
Dairies	31

Five informal notices were served for minor contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(iv) Educational Activities

Posters and leaflets on Food Hygiene subjects have from time to time been distributed to establishments engaged in food handling and processing.

(v) Condemned Food

Unsound or diseased meat is sent to a processing plant at Davidstow, where it is sterilized and manufactured into fertilizer. Condemned canned goods are dealt with by incineration at the Council's Refuse Tip.

(vi) Special Examination of Large Food Consignments.

No large consignment of food has necessitated special examination or large scale condemnation.

(vii) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 - 1952

No ice cream is produced in the Borough of Launceston. Forty two samples of Ice Cream, all of the hot mix type, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Without exception, they were classified as Provisional Grade 1, which is highly satisfactory.

(viii) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 - 1956

The desirability of excluding dogs from food premises whilst not enforceable under these regulations is stressed whenever possible. Proprietors of food premises are encouraged to place food in such a position that it cannot be contaminated by animals brought into such places.

Competition in the food trades is now so acute that the desire by small shopkeepers to increase their range of stock is adding to the likelihood of contamination of foodstuffs by reason of congestion. It is necessary frequently to point out that there is a legal obligation on the part of the proprietor to take all necessary steps to prevent the risk of contamination of foodstuffs. The proof of actual contamination is not required.

(ix) Milk and Cream.

There are five registered Dairies within the Borough. Two of these retail milk and the remaining three are registered in order that they may sell loose cream.

Milk is distributed by four persons, two of whom operate from dairies within the Borough, one selling Pasteurised Milk only, the other being a Producer Retailer of Tuberculin Tested Milk who also sells Pasteurised Milk. The other two persons operate from outside the Borough, both selling Pasteurised Milk, but one being also a Producer Retailer of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

A small quantity of Undesignated Milk is sold from a farm within the Borough.

The following samples of milk were taken during the year :-

Tuberculin Tested

Passed Methylene
Blue Test

13

Failed Methylene
Blue Test

2

Pasteurised

Passed Methylene
Blue Test

22

Failed Methylene
Blue Test

Nil

Undesignated

Three samples of Undesignated (Raw) milk were taken during the year and on Biological Examination were reported as being free from Tuberculosis

(x) Unsound Food

Forty visits were paid in order to condemn unsound food stuffs. A sample of tinned shrimps, suspected of being contaminated were submitted for chemical analysis, but no harmful constituent was found.

(xi) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

There was a decrease in the number of animals slaughtered in 1958 of 599 indicating a fall of 0.85% over the 1957 figure and representing a total kill of 69,947 made up as follows :-

Bovines	5039	increased by	652
Calves	5387	decreased by	1020
Sheep	37198	increased by	2588
Pigs	22323	decreased by	2819
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	69947	decreased by	599
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Cysticercus Bovis

There has been a very marked reduction in the number of cases of cysticercus bovis detected during 1958. This parasite, the developmental stage of the human tapeworm, was found in one steer and five heifers or young cows. This gives an incidence of 0.11% representing a decrease of 0.46% over the 1957 figure of 0.57%.

This reduction is thought to be due to the very heavy rainfall during the year having cleansed the pastures and prevented further lodgment of ova. No cases of generalised cysticercosis were found.

It is interesting to note that these very conditions have been extremely favourable to the development of the liver fluke or Distoma Hepaticum and 1,011 sheep were affected with this disease as compared with 99 in 1957.

-----oOo-----

Twenty six licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

No diseases notifiable under the Diseases of Animals Acts occurred during the year.

For details of animals inspected and condemned see Table IV.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES
ACT 1937 AND 1948 FOR THE YEAR 1958

Factories Act 1937 and 1948

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Notices</u>
Factories without power	7	3	Nil
Factories with power	47	80	9
	54	83	9

Defects Found and Remedied

Want of Cleanliness	5
Defective or unsuitable sanitary accommodation	4
	9

Classified List of Registered Factories at 31.12.58

<u>Nature of Business</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-Power</u>
Agricultural Implement Repairs	3	-
Boot Making and Repair	2	-
Bread and Confectionary	2	-
Brushes	1	-
Cabinet Making	1	-
Dresses and Millinery	-	2
Egg Grading and Packing	2	-
Electrical and Radio Repairs	1	-
Electrical Station	1	-
Gas Holder	1	-
Hide Salting and Dressing	-	1
Joinery	5	1
Laundry	2	-
Letter Press Printing	2	-
Monumental Masons	1	-
Motor Body Painters	1	-
Motor Body Builders	1	-
Motor Vehicle Repairers	10	-
Photographer	1	-
Radio Repairs	1	-
Rope Splicing	-	1
Saddlery	-	1
Sawmills	1	-
Seed Dressing	1	-
Sausage Making	3	-
Tailoring	-	1
Upholstery	1	-
Watch and Clock Repairs	2	-
Wool Grading	1	-
	47	7

Outworkers

Section 110 Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

No Outworkers were notified under the above Sections of the Act as carrying out work in their homes within the Borough.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire

One certificate of Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire was issued in respect of a Brush Factory after the provision of an additional escape route by external metal staircase, the rehanging of a door and the provision of a separate store for the keeping of cellulose.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE.

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following :- Smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus fever, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, relapsing fever, plague, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, malaria, dysentery, puerperal pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, whooping cough, measles, acute encephalitis, meningococcal infection and food poisoning.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table III.

Smallpox. No case was notified during the year, in the course of which 46 primary vaccinations and 7 revaccinations were carried out.

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

Forty children received a complete course of immunisation against diphtheria during the year, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in almost all cases.

Measles. No case was notified during 1958.

Whooping Cough. No cases were notified during the year. In the fourth quarter, however, the weekly return of infectious disease from one school in the Borough included one case. No confirmatory notification was received. This disease is now so mild, especially in immunised children, that the diagnosis may remain a matter of reasonable doubt.

Poliomyelitis. No case of this disease was formally notified during the year, but one adult patient was admitted to hospital in October with this condition, or meningitis, as a possible diagnosis. The patient was discharged as having been a probable case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis, but definite confirmation of the diagnosis does not seem to have been possible. No further cases occurred.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis continued during 1958. A further extension of the scheme was announced towards the end of the year, with the introduction of third or booster injections and the extension of the age range to include all those born since the beginning of 1933.

During 1958, 497 persons in the Borough completed the primary course of two injections. The majority of these were children, but the number included some young adults and some adults in the priority groups, e.g. expectant mothers. By the end of the year, 629 persons had received the primary course of vaccination since the introduction of the scheme in 1956.

Food Poisoning. In March, the headmaster of one school in the Borough notified an outbreak of what appeared at first to be food poisoning in his school. Investigations did not bear this out, however, and it was concluded that this was an outbreak of a condition known as epidemic winter nausea and vomiting. Little is known of the cause of this condition, but it is thought to be a virus infection. Although distressing at the time, it is short-lived, and rapid and complete recovery the rule, as was observed in this outbreak.

Tuberculosis.

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>
Cases on Register				
31.12.57	10	5	16	2
No. of cases notified				
during year	1	-	1	-
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	1	1	1	-
Cases Removed	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total on Register	12	6	18	2
31.12.58	<hr/>		<hr/>	

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for treatment of Tuberculosis patients and the County Council for the prevention of spread of the disease and after-care of the patient.

Out-patients and contacts are seen by the Chest Physician (Dr. Mellor) at the Chest Clinic at Launceston Hospital. The County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinic, follows up the patients in their homes, traces contacts and sources of infection and thus acting as a most valuable and essential "liaison officer" between the curative and preventive services, bridges a most alarming administrative gap. All susceptible contacts of known cases in the Borough are offered B.C.G. vaccination and the majority avail themselves of this method of protection.

The County Council's scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of susceptible school leavers was continued during the year, again with an excellent response.

OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung. During 1958, one male death from cancer of the lung was recorded out of a total of 9 cancer deaths. Since 1949 there have been 45 male and 68 female deaths from all forms of cancer. Of these, 6 male and 4 female deaths have been due to cancer of the lung. This is not a negligible proportion and it should be remembered that these are deaths only. Nothing is known of the number who may be under treatment for the disease, or under observation following treatment.

The association of this disease with smoking, and particularly with cigarette smoking, is now established. No disease has ever excited such intense interest, nor has any had such widespread publicity. No form of cancer has ever offered such an opportunity to the individual for prevention. There can be no adult or adolescent in the Western Hemisphere who has not experienced the propaganda in this connection, yet the tobacco habit still retains its hold.

Youth thinks itself indestructible, and the young do not concern themselves with such a remote possibility as death. Adult example is more powerful in its silent advocacy of the smoking habit than the most beguiling advertisement produced by a tobacco manufacturer. The adolescent apes his elders, and the adoption of smoking is a symbol of his new-found freedom from the restraints of childhood. The adult smoker who cannot free himself from the habit may do well to reflect that it is not only his own health which may be at stake, but also that of children still in the classroom.

TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths 1958

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION (Estimated)</u>	<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>			
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Crude Rate</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>		<u>All ages</u>	
				<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1954	4660	62	13.30	Nil	Nil	96	20.60
1955	4670	59	12.63	1	16.95	85	18.20
1956	4660	55	11.80	1	18.18	91	19.53
1957	4660	52	11.37	2	37.73	72	15.45
1958	4670	55	11.77	-	-	68	14.56

TABLE III

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases
(other than Tuberculosis)

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis (N.P.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3

TABLE IV

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed (if known)	1453	3586	5387	37198	22323	-
No. inspected	1437	3481	4930	35706	21037	-
<u>All diseases except T.B. & Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	4	20	10	122	29	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	80	305	11	1011	112	-
% of the no. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	5.85%	9.34%	0.42%	3.17%	0.67%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	24	3	1	8	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	68	378	5	-	753	-
% of the no. inspected affected with T.B.	4.94%	11.52%	0.16%	0.0028%	3.61%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	5	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	5	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE V

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED

Housing Act 1957 Section 18 (Closing Orders) - 2

INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED - 48

Defective Drainage - 4

Defective Roofs - 1

General Defects - 10

Insanitary Conditions - 12

Obstructed Drainage - 2

Overflowing Cesspools - 3

Food Hygiene Regulations - 16

Total Number of Complaints Received - 52

Total Number of Visits Paid - 2133

1912

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

FOR THE YEAR 1912

BY

JOHN D. COOK

CHAIRMAN

OF THE DEPARTMENT

OF CHEMISTRY

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